

# War Danger Grows as U. S. Tries to Line Up Great Britain Against Mexico

As the situation now stands between the United States and Mexico a break in diplomatic relations seems inevitable.

Two very sinister developments point in this direction.

1.—The United States is preventing as far as possible a break of its own nationals in the direction of yielding to the new Mexican laws peacefully.

Says a Mexico City News dispatch: "All except two American oil companies operating in Mexico have arrived at an agreement among themselves and WITH THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT to stand pat in their refusal to exchange their fee simple titles for fifty year concessions."

"Final instructions to this effect have been received by the Mexico City and Tampico representatives of these companies. AMBASSADOR SHEFFIELD WILL HAVE CHARGE OF THEIR CASE AND THEY WILL BE GUIDED BY HIS ADVICE."

"The oil companies do not expect the Mexican government to modify its laws to satisfy the American protests. THEY ARE EQUALLY CONVINCED THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT

## BACK DOWN."

Do you get the full purport of this?

The Coolidge-Kellogg administration is encouraging American owners in Mexico to break the new Mexican laws; IT IS LINGERING UP SOLIDLY TO TAKE A STAND THAT WILL MEAN THE CONFISCATION OF THEIR PROPERTIES. UNLESS UNITED STATES GUNS PREVENT THIS. MOREOVER, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS GIVEN ITS PLEDGE THAT IT WILL PROTECT THESE AMERICANS IN MEXICO IN THEIR DEFENSE OF MEXICAN LAW AND SEE THAT THEY SHALL NOT LOSE THEIR PROPERTIES.

This is a virtual declaration of war against the sovereignty of Mexico. It leaves no alternative but a backdown either by the United States or by Mexico.

But this is no more ominous than the other.

2.—ALTHOUGH BRITISH NATIONALS ARE WILLING TO AGREE TO THE NEW MEXICAN LAWS, AND ARE SIGNING AGREEMENTS, THE WALL-STREET-OWNED ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON IS TRYING TO PREVENT THIS AND IS TRYING TO INDUCE GREAT BRITAIN TO JOIN THE UNITED STATES IN THIS AN-

## SAULT ON MEXICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY.

From the same dispatch quoted above, we quote the following:

"In an effort to line the British government up with the American government in the controversy with the Mexican government over the alien land and oil laws, Ambassador Sheffield this week will begin conferences with Edmund Ovey, British minister to Mexico."

"THE DISPOSITION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE APPLICATION OF THE EL AGUILA OIL COMPANY FOR CONCESSIONS UNDER THE NEW MEXICAN LAW, IS TO ACCEPT THE LAW. El Aguilá is the principal British interest operating in Mexico. Its land holdings obtained through purchase in fee simple of lease and concessions exceed those of any other oil company and constitute a veritable kingdom."

"The Texas company and Waters Pierce interests are the two American companies which have elected to record their profits to the titles, apply for the concessions, abide

by the Mexican law, and agree before the ministry of foreign affairs not to invoke diplomatic intervention of their own government."

"Ambassador Sheffield believes that Great Britain and the United States will, on the showdown, act in unity against the land and oil laws. In oil circles the opinion prevails that notwithstanding any assurances Mr. Ovey may give Mr. Sheffield, El Aguilá and associated British oil interests in Mexico will be allowed a free hand."

Never before in the history of this country has American capitalism and American imperialism become so nakedly and brazenly and brutally bold.

Never before in the history of this country has an administration, calling itself the representative of the American people and the champion of American democracy, surrendered so completely, bent its back so lowly, crawled in the dust so shamelessly and licked the feet of capitalism and imperialism so disgustingly as the Coolidge-Kellogg Republican Party regime.

Not satisfied to merely defend those American land and oil interests that do not want to yield in Mexico to Mexican laws, it goes outside of these to

prevent other American interests from obeying Mexican laws.

Not satisfied with fighting merely for the interests of American capitalists, it is attempting to get British capitalists to break agreements already signed and to get the British government, which is satisfied and peacefully disposed, to join it in wrecking Mexican laws and Mexican sovereignty and in looting wholesale the Mexican nation.

This stand is so unusual, so unjustifiable, so monstrous, that one cannot account for it, except as the result of an effort to cover up and protect an amazing amount of property stolen from the Mexican people by crooked means, as reported by Marc Lewis in last week's issue of the American Appeal.

It is highly probable that an incredible amount of property covered by fake titles will revert to the Mexican people as a result of the enforcement of the new Mexican land and oil laws, and that Wall Street through its agents in Washington, D. C., is engaged in a desperate and reckless attempt to save these stolen goods, even at the risk of war.

Shall we go to war for such a cause?

The American people can give a decisive and final NO to this question by the assertion of a public opinion with which the militarists and imperialists of this nation will not dare to tamper.

## Socialists of Maryland Gain Legal Standing

Official Count Shows Good Gain Over Vote Cast In 1923

S. M. Neistadt, Baltimore, Secretary of the Socialist Party, Maryland, reports as follows on the election results in the November election:

Allow me to correct the statement of the vote cast for the Socialist Party candidates in Maryland. The vote in Maryland for the first time in the last few years showed a marked gain.

The vote cast in 1923 and 1924 for the same offices:

1923	1924
Governor.....	1165
Comptroller.....	2621
Clerk of Court of Appeals.....	25-7
Attorney General.....	2341

1924	1925
Governor.....	2195
Comptroller.....	3120
Clerk of Court of Appeals.....	4247
Attorney General.....	2951
U. S. Senator.....	2659

The above vote will give us the official standing in Maryland.

On November 14th the Socialist Party of Baltimore held a Eugene V. Debs Memorial Meeting with comrades Melba Freeman and James O'Neal the speakers, the attendance of the meeting being about 1600 socialists and sympathizers.

However you vote, those you put in power will consider you gave them license for further graft. And if you vote either old party ticket, they will be right.

## Muscle Shoals to Be Big Issue in Present Session

Bills On Calendar to Turn Big Public Industry To Private Interests

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The long pending Muscle Shoals issue may reach a showdown at this session of Congress. The bill providing for acceptance of the offer of a group of southern power companies for the purchase of the Muscle Shoals plant from the government as recommended by the joint congressional commission headed by Senator Deneen (Rep., Ill.), is on the calendar in both houses. It will be called up for action in the senate early in the session. Various substitutes will be offered by those who oppose the acceptance of the offer of the southern power companies, and the outcome of the matter is uncertain.

Coal legislation, which has been talked of for many years without result, promises to be a live issue at this session.

## Laborite Wins In By-Election

HULL, England—Labor won a notable victory here yesterday in a parliamentary by-election, when Commander Kenworthy, a convert to the Labor party from the Liberal party, won a seat in the House of Commons over Admiral Ernest Hunt, Conservative, and Col. Charles Kerr, Liberal.

## Emergency Law May Shut Workers From Radio Use

An emergency law impending in the short session of Congress this winter which will forbid the granting of any more licenses for broadcasting stations until permanent legislation on the use of the air is passed.

Representative White, Republican, of Maine, who is in charge of radio legislation, has announced that he has already drafted a resolution providing that until otherwise provided by law NO LICENSES OTHER THAN RENEWALS OF EXISTING LICENSES shall be issued for radio broadcasting stations and that he intends to introduce this early in the present session of Congress.

The passage of this measure now would mean nothing less than the shutting out of labor and progressive movements from the use of the radio with the single exception of the Chicago Fed rally of Labor, until the impending monopoly of the air is perfected and legally entrenched.

That the labor and progressive elements are actually facing the closing of the radio to them as an instrument of enlightenment—that one of the greatest and most effective weapons of propaganda is about to fall into the almost exclusive use of the capitalist class appears from the following facts:

There are only 39 wave lengths—39 channels of the ether suitable to broadcasting.

Experts are of the opinion that there should not be more than two 500 watt stations to each wave length, and that these two should be at least 2,000 miles apart. According to this calculation, there ought not to be more than 178 broadcasting stations operating in this country. There are now 615 licensed and operating.

With this situation before them, the interests seeking to control the air expect to encounter easy slugging in obtaining legislation that will shut out the workers and all who oppose the existing industrial system from the use of the air.

Private property in the air was recently ruled legal by a Chicago district judge. Legislation backing up this court ruling WILL INEVITABLY APPROPRIATE THE VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF WAVE LENGTHS AMONG THE INTERESTS ALREADY IN CONTROL OF THE FIELD.

There is not a ghost of a chance for the workers to use this avenue of communication to broadcast their cause, unless they gain a foothold in the air before such legislation materializes, or unless they establish a democratic public right in the use of the air.

## 7 Per Cent On "Present Cost" Is Legalized

U. S. Supreme Court Hands Utility Firm 7 Per Cent On More Than Twice Its Investment

The corporation which supplies Indianapolis, Indiana, with water has invested about \$7,000,000 in its plant. Last week the Supreme Court of the United States decided that on January 1, 1921, the "value" of the plant was \$12,000,000, and that the company is entitled to rates which will yield a 7 per cent return on that sum.

That means that the water consumers of Indianapolis must pay the water company 7 per cent per annum on \$12,000,000 more than the amount actually invested in the enterprise.

This will be equivalent to a tax on the water consumers of Indianapolis of \$700,000 a year.

This ruling creates a dangerous situation for the consuming public of the United States. It establishes a precedent which can be followed in the case of other private corporations owning public utilities.

The principle of "present cost" as a basis of valuation, if applied to the railroads, would make their "value" at least thirty billion dollars—and probably a great deal more—in place of twenty billions, as fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Seven per cent interest on thirty billion dollars would guarantee the railroad owners \$2,100,000,000 out of the pockets of the American people every year.

The decision was written by Justice Pierce Butler, Justices Stone and Brandies vigorously dissenting. Butler, a Minnesota railroad corporation lawyer, was appointed to the Supreme Court over the vigorous protest of the Farmer-Labor and progressive elements of Minnesota. It was charged at the time that he was put on the Supreme Bench by railroad influence.

Under the ruling, of the total annual income that will now come to the corporation, which will be \$1,330,000, \$500,120 will go to the bondholders who put up every dollar that the plant cost. The rest, \$829,875 per year goes to the holding company which has the common stock, which apparently does not represent a dollar of actual investment.

## Socialists of Italy in Danger

ROME.—Five hundred and twenty-two persons "irrevocably hostile to the regime" will be forced to take residence in specified towns in Italy or deported to Italian penal colonies, it was officially announced tonight.

The communists have completed their deliberations under the provisions of article 168 of the new law for security of the state. In seventeen of Italy's seventy-six provinces, it was unnecessary to confine anyone, the official report adds.

On the income the average man receives he can't "pursue happiness" very far—even in a Ford.

## Big Socialist Gain In German City Elections

Big Business and Landowners Lose Everywhere Except in Southern Municipalities

PARIS—Yesterday's city elections in Germany have repeated the recent British municipal elections. Labor parties have everywhere made huge gains, chiefly at the expense of liberals, such as the Democratic and Popular parties.

In such big cities as Dresden, Leipzig and Chemnitz, and the port of Kiel, the two workers' parties have control of the city government.

The fly in the ointment here is that the larger party, Social Democrats, is being assiduously opposed by the Communists, thus imperiling labor control.

Big business and landowners' parties lost everywhere except in southern Germany.

Immediately following the elections, the big business chancellor (or premier) of Germany made another bid to fetch the Socialists into his coalition government. Without the Socialists the cabinet is going to have a hard time surviving.

"The hive of industry is infested with drones and robbed by parasites. The boys still leave the farm, just as the Israelites left Egypt—to escape bondage."

## Socialists of Italy to Rebuild Party in France

Million Italians Will Uphold Banner of Movement in Neighboring Country

Zurich, Switzerland, Headquarters of Labor and Socialist International.—The Socialist Party headquarters of the Italian Socialists are to be moved in all probability into France to escape the murderous terrorism of the Fascists in their latest debauch of violence and pillage and their suppression of all opposition parties, all opposition publications and all opposite views from those of the Fascists.

There are more than a million Italian workers in France already, many of whom are fugitives from Italian Fascism. The Socialist Party of Italian Workers has already been organized.

At a recent meeting the leaders of this party passed a resolution, which, among other things, says:

"Henceforth it is futile to nurse the illusion that the Socialist Movement can develop in Italy its own action, and in consequence, the Socialist emigrants are bound to take upon themselves the public representation of the movement itself with all the duties and responsibilities therein implied. The comrades who have returned behind under the terrorism of the murderers of Giacomo Matteotti are entitled to be relieved of political functions which are out to a martyrdom without any possibility of triumph."

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## General Fries, Here Is Your Answer

General Fries, you attempted to get a high school teacher separated from his job because he asked in a magazine contest six questions of a critical nature regarding the present industrial system.

In your letter to this man's principal, you attempted only a partial answer of one of these questions.

Dr. Flury asked, "Why do little children still toil in factories?" In your letter you admit that there is some child labor, but you assert that it is disappearing.

Here are the facts taken from the recent report of the present Secretary of Labor, John J. Davis:

Says this report: The Children's Bureau of the Department studied conditions in plants in Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New York and Wisconsin. The institutions investigated employed 50,000 persons. Among these were 3,257 children under 16 years of age and 1,092 under 11.

The Bureau found a great many children in eastern industrial centers were employed out of school hours, in real jobs that could not be classified as "chore." In the city of Newark 7,500 children under 16 were thus employed; in Patterson, 2,000. Detroit made the worst showing of any city in the employment of children.

The report says, "MANY CHILDREN WERE EMPLOYED EXCESSIVELY LONG HOURS AND NIGHT WORK WAS REPORTED FOR A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER."

And, now, this one, Gen. Fries, is for "patriots" like you, who cannot stand to hear this industrial system criticized:

STATISTICS GATHERED BY THE BUREAU SHOWED THAT IN 23 OUT OF 24 CITIES HAVING A POPULATION OF 100,000 OR MORE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BETWEEN 14 AND 16 WHO WERE ENTERING REGULAR EMPLOYMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME, REVEALED AN INCREASE.

General Fries, where did you get your authority for saying that child labor is decreasing in the United States?

## Says Stockyards Again Turn Out Putrid Products

Lawyer Asks Upton Sinclair to Come to Chicago and Write Sequel to "The Jungle"

Upton Sinclair's novel "The Jungle" caused a cleaning up of almost unbelievable conditions in Chicago Packingtown before the war. The people of the United States, who nearly all eat the products of Chicago Packingtown, have been resting easy ever since in the firm belief that all is well with the big packers, since Mr. Sinclair and the government had compelled them to clean up.

That all may not be well—that the packers may be playing their old tricks on the public again—is indicated by a letter from a lawyer living in the stockyard district to Mr. Sinclair. The letter follows:

Mr. Upton Sinclair:

Dear Sir:

It is time for you to write the sequel to "The Jungle." Capital will be good unless a "big stick" is held over it. The yards so far as tankage is concerned is back or is coming back to "old times."

We have Government Inspectors 'tis true but they are being rendered impotent in the same old way—going over their heads, going to Washington—cutting down their number in a plant so as to render their influence and service toward protecting the public a farce.

I'm not the man with ability to fight the battle. You whipped the "The mere matter of ships does not

## Packers once—they know it—they undoubtedly would cringe if they took up "the big stick."

Don't take my word, investigate for yourself or cause an investigation to be made that will not be a "white wash."

## Marine Engineers Want Uncle Sam to Operate Vessels

"The mere matter of ships does not constitute a real merchant marine, and it is our firm belief that no real American merchant marine will ever be established except by the government acting through established agencies and maintaining essential and agreed trade routes until their commercial success is assured."

This statement was made by William F. Yates, President of the National Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, at the final hearing in Washington last week before the U. S. Shipping Board, which is preparing to submit a report to Congress on the disposition of ships now operated by the government.

The association for which President Yates speaks supplies most of the engineers to man American steamships on the oceans and Great Lakes.

President Yates advocated an American merchant marine owned and operated by the government in order that all citizens might benefit by the service and for the further reason that "private capital, looking first to profits for investors, will never accomplish what the government has done to keep open the channels of commerce for the benefit of all the people."

## What Is Your Answer to This?

One of the greatest engines for the instigation of war with Mexico now in operation in the United States is the anti-Mexican propaganda organization of the Knights of Columbus.

Last summer the branches belonging to this body all over the United States, with a membership of 735,000, sent representatives to a convention in Philadelphia which voted to raise a fund of one million dollars to be devoted to propaganda against the Calles administration.

Then they turned to press propaganda. They took as their official spokesman "Columbia," the Knights' monthly organ, and started a series of articles, written by a renegade Socialist and a Jew, by the way, attempting to prove that Mexico is in the hands of the "Communists." Copies of these articles in pamphlet form were sent broadcast. The Knights have already distributed from their propaganda headquarters at 45 Wall Street, New Haven, Conn., two million copies of a pamphlet called "Red Mexico," and two million more copies of a pamphlet with the mystifying title, "Mexico?" The money has come in well. The members were assessed a dollar apiece and already more than \$700,000 is in the treasury. But they will not stop there. It is planned to panhandle wealthy individuals for larger sums.

In addition to the propaganda carried on by "Columbia," "America," the cleverly edited organ of the Jesuits, and the pamphlets, committees for propaganda will be set up in the various Catholic dioceses all over the country with orders to keep strict watch on the local papers and protest to the editors every time anything favorable to Calles appears. Plans are under way to use some powerful radio broadcasting station in New York and once a week send anti-Calles propaganda over the air. Experienced newspapermen who have read of the one million dollar fund are dropping in at New Haven in search of jobs with the hierarchy's bureau.

While the Mexican government is committed to a considerable program of socialization and is largely a labor and farmer government, the charge that it is communistic and is in league with Moscow is a grotesque falsehood calculated to arouse prejudice among the uninformed of this country and prepare them for any kind of an adventure in Mexico that may suit the purposes of American reaction.

Workers of America, what is your answer to this campaign of falsehood and deception?

There can be but one answer. Unite and meet it with the truth. Spread the publications that are telling the truth about this situation. The lives of our young men, our own liberties depend upon it.







## THEODORE THE BELOVED

BY GUY BOGART

Theodore, the Beloved!  
Our Theodore of the house of Debs—  
Great lover of our fellows,  
Protector of Our "Gene,  
A comrade's devotion know.

Gentle his touch and gentle his speech,  
And gentle the life of  
Theodore the Beloved—  
That invincible gentleness  
But Lao-Tze praised,  
Would you know the revolution,  
The union of proletarian struggle  
With the love of All?

Would you know the heart and the soul  
By sordid, sickening struggle oft obscured—  
The love of socialism?  
Then touch the hem of  
Theodore the Beloved.

Oh comrade-lover of mine,  
Those hours in your office, in your home,  
Those letters across the continent,  
Written by tired fingers—  
Soul-vibrations linking me to the Highest,  
Making sacred our common cause for human freedom.

I have seen tears in those soft eyes,  
Eyes oft, too, turned to steel  
When the spirit of Jesus-within-the-temple  
With whips and scorn would drive the  
Parasites to their kennels,  
From the temples of the boys who work.

I have felt the fire of great passion  
Wrought to gentle fury  
By comrades' sufferings and mine.  
I have touched the hand and felt the beat of heart;  
I have listened to the words of consecration  
To the revolution's undying urge;  
Have felt the melting fires of devotion  
To workers' upward quest.

Have known the joy of comradeship  
With Theodore the Beloved.

Published in GALE, March, 1921.

the "aggressive campaign of violence now being conducted by the police." The affidavits of the striking box makers state that they have been beaten with clubs and fists and that children have been chased from the street by a policeman brandishing a revolver. One striker charges that three front teeth were knocked out by a blow from a policeman. A girl swears that she was badly bruised when a policeman struck her with a chair. Two men alleged that they were arrested and fined on trumped-up charges. Other girls testify that they were clubbed or threatened with bodily injury for walking in the strike area or for harmless acts against which the police arbitrarily objected.

The 3,000 strikers, now picketing for nine weeks, maintain that police have been riding on manufacturers' trucks, issuing arbitrary picketing rules, and aiding strike breakers, according to Fred Canola, strike manager. Over 300 strikers have been arrested on charges of "disorderly conduct" for attempting to picket Greene, Houston and Prince Streets, where the largest of the 100 shops involved are situated. Many of them have been fined from \$5 to \$25.

## With the Workers Around the World

### Australia

Giving evidence before an Australian commission, several medical men testified that there has been a general improvement in the health of the workers in New South Wales since the Labor government in that state introduced the 41-hour week. Experts from various industries admitted that generally there had been no reduction in output because of the reduction of working hours from 48 to 41.

The Melbourne Trades Hall council will convene an All-Australian Trade Union congress at Melbourne early next year. The Labor councils throughout Australia have given their support to the congress. The congress will lay down the industrial and political policy of the trade union movement.

### Great Britain

All the British coal miners were back to work on December 1, says a news dispatch. The last to go back were the brave and stubborn fighters of Durham, Yorkshire and South Wales. Thus has been defeated, temporarily, a million organized workers, backed by a trade union movement in Great Britain of about 8,000,000 and aided by workers all over the world, especially the Russian workers, who gave close to \$7,000,000. The defeat of the workers was accomplished by the closest cooperation between the united and solid employing interests and the capitalist government of Great Britain. If this combination had been beaten, the workers would have been able to force the socialization of coal mines. The capitalists realized this and fought desperately on the last line of defense to save their system. What the workers have lost temporarily in the industrial field they have gained in the political field. In all British elections since the coal strike began the workers won. The Socialists are in the majority in England now as a result of the strike and could take over the government if there was an election.

### China

One of the biggest popular celebrations ever held in China was the Sun Yat Sen 60th birthday Nov. 12. Conservative estimates give 50,000 participants. All but necessary work stopped.

The celebration began with a monster lantern parade in which 200,000 members of labor unions, student bodies, peasants, officials and merchant bodies.

Speakers addressed crowds of 150,000 from 5 platforms. Mrs. Sun Yat Sen spoke at Chung-shan university.

There is a tremendous popular enthusiasm at the military successes of the Nationalist armies.

The history of imperialism is among the most popular courses maintained for workers by the Kuomintang, the Chinese revolutionary party, in Canton. Texts and school supplies are provided to students without charge. Particular reference is made in the imperialism course to the greed of the western powers in China.

### Austria

The transformation of the trade unions of Austria into industrial unions is being seriously discussed in Austrian labor circles. The movement for industrial union began in Austria in 1928. Attempts were made shortly after that time to organize the unions by industrial districts, but it was found that they were not yet ready for the change. Since then industrial evolution has so changed conditions in Austria that the trade union now finds itself with helplessness in the face of the strong industrial organization of the employers.

It is likely under these circumstances industrial unionism will make rapid headway in Austria. Austria has the largest per cent organization of labor in the world over 90 per cent. Its labor is solidly Socialist. The time seems ripe for the industrial union in Austria.

### Poland

Latest developments in Poland show that Pilsudski, whom the trade unions and Socialist Party helped into power, because they had to choose between him and the Fascists, has gone over definitely to the monarchists, feudal aristocrats and big bankers. In the meantime the Fascists have strengthened themselves by obtaining the backing of the Catholic Church of Poland. This is rapidly bringing a definite line-up in Poland between the revolutionaries and the real democratic elements. The Socialists are the backbone of the democratic element. They have forced a party member, Morawski, who accepted a position in Pilsudski's cabinet to resign from the party.

## Watson-Parker Board Awards Raise In Wages

NEW YORK.—The first decision made by the board of arbitration operating under the new Watson-Parker railroad bill, given out last week, awarded \$9,000 conductors and trainmen on eastern railroads an increase of 7 1/2 per cent in wages, or approximately \$15,000,000 a year.

The employees had asked approximately fifty roads for wage increases of 10 per cent, or \$30,000,000 a year, amounting to a rise of about \$1 a day. The advance averages about 42 cents a day per employee.

The report settles a dispute of a year's standing between the union and the roads. The increase is effective as of Dec. 1.

Board Vote Is 4 to 2.

The award was made by a vote of 4 to 2 of the board, Edgar E. Clark, former chairman of the I. C. C., and William D. Baldwin of the Otis Elevator company, representing the public on the board, voted with the railroad union members, E. P. Curtis, general secretary, Order of Railway Conductors, and Daniel L. Foster, editor of the Railway Trainman. Dissenting votes were cast by the railroad representatives, Robert V. Massey, assistant vice president of the Pennsylvania railroad, and William A. Brown, vice president of the Erie railroad.

## Socialists of Italy Rebuild

(Continued from page 1)

gile results; and during the terrible hours which they are doomed to live through, they are to be reminded that the sword to be derived from the certainty that their comrades abroad, according to their example, are pursuing and advancing the work for freedom and for Socialism.

It is feared that many Socialists and Communists have lost their lives in the present orgy of murder and rapine in Italy. The 532 political prisoners recently arrested in Italy, it is feared, included believed and prominent Socialists.

A correspondent writes from Italy to the International Information Bureau that the former secretary of the Italian Socialist party, Antonio Gramsci, has been released from prison. He is now in the hands of the police, and is being held in a prison. He is now in the hands of the police, and is being held in a prison.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Issues Before Congress

To what extent the ownership of the basic means of life has become an issue in individualistic America is indicated by the impending leading issues before Congress this winter. Outside of the wet and dry fight, which will be always with us until it is settled right, the impending turn-over of Muscle Shoals to a big private corporation is mentioned in the press dispatches as one of the leading issues in the short session of Congress this winter.

The next issue in importance mentioned is the coal issue. This is related closely not only to the question of close public control, but vitally to the class struggle. One of the sinister possibilities in connection with this issue is the possibility that a provision will be incorporated in the proposed legislation controlling coal production, which will prohibit strikes in this industry. This would be a real step toward Fascism in America.

Another issue singled out for its importance is the radio issue. A bill impeding that would prohibit the licensing of any more broadcasting stations until control of the air is thoroughly "regulated" by the government. Another bill would control ownership of the radio with a vengeance. Undoubtedly the step proposed is the first "legal" step toward the thorough private monopolization of the air and the capture of this avenue of public education by the capitalist class.

Another important issue mentioned is the issue of the disposal of what remains of the ships built by the United States government during the war and still belonging to the people. It is trying to turn these ships over to private corporations with undignified haste and at scandalous prices. This is nothing less than criminal in view of the fact that there is a shipping famine that establishes almost positively the need of a government-owned and operated by the government of the United States would effectively bring down prices and prevent this exploitation of the people. Here, in a real sense, the capitalist administration is holding the people up while the trust holds them up.

Here, then, are four issues, that rank first in importance as issues in the short session of Congress. They are all related more or less closely to the question of control of the public on the one hand and great private interests on the other. Their present importance brings out strikingly the fact that the struggle for the sources of material existence is being fought in the hands of the capitalist class on the one hand and the owning class on the other, which is a phase of the class struggle that has pushed itself to the front of the stage in America. In the face of such a growing struggle, the capitalist class cannot much longer be kept in ignorance of Socialism, which is an enlightened understanding and participation in this struggle.

### American Labor Is Changing

The fact that the Marine Engineers have taken up the struggle of battle against the towing and pushing of the ships of the Shipping Trust and are demanding government ownership and operation, brings out once more the fact that many American labor groups are for the public ownership of the particular industries in which they work, in preference to the private ownership of such industries.

The United Mine Workers, some time ago adopted the report proposed by a special committee in which John Brophy had an important place, and the American Federation of Labor has adopted a similar plan. Undoubtedly there is strong public ownership sentiment among the railroad workers. This is being promoted by Labor, their official organ.

Among the conservative trade unions there are other groups that favor public ownership of the particular industry that covers their trade.

This attitude is significant in view of the fact that the official of the American Federation of Labor for a number of years have been assiduously promoting a new and strange philosophy which might be described as a cross between capitalism and socialism. They have been trying to make the workers believe that the only way to get out of the present economic situation is by making little by little, by self by working fast or slow. By setting other gangs to doing the same thing, they can pay the biggest output for the hardest working and most efficient gang, thus making the most productive gang set the standard for the rest and introducing a system of collective sweating. They can do more than this: THEY CAN MAKE EACH GANG DO ITS OWN DRIVING AND ITS OWN SWEATING, AND ITS OWN WEAVING, CUTTING AND DISCHARGING. All the capitalists will have to do is sit back, rake in their enormous profits and just laugh while jealous and desperate labor manages itself, bosses itself, drives itself, sweats itself, disciplines itself and punishes itself of "undesirable" elements.

But there is another side to this picture. BY HANDING OVER TO LABOR THESE NEW INDUSTRIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS, CAPITALISM IS BRINGING ITSELF ONE MORE STEP NEARER THE TIME WHEN IT WILL NOT PERFORM ANY USEFUL FUNCTION WHATEVER AND IT WILL BE GIVEN THE GATE.

### Idealism and Power

Wonderful was that gigantic celebration of the birthday of Sun Yat Sen in Canton. They had pictures of him gathered from all parts of China to do honor to a modest little man who had been dead several years and who in life was defeated in almost every attempt he made to lift his country out of the ruts of history.

Do you know how many times Sun Yat Sen was defeated and driven out of Canton—out of China? We doubt if there is any greater record of heart-breaking failures than the life of Sun Yat Sen presents.

BUT TWO THINGS MAKE HIM DEAD THOUGH HE BE, THE GREATEST LIVING FORCE IN CHINA, AND PERHAPS IN THE WORLD AT THIS MOMENT.

He served a great Cause.

He never gave up.

He came back from exile, to danger, back to the imminent threat of death, he came back again and again to the same end, and he died in a red coffin, a great and glorious soldier of the common good.

A Christian, and a Socialist, in a land so strange to Christianity, a stranger to Socialism, but who was undaunted always, now has become in death THE RISING LIFE OF THIS STRANGE LAND. Vast armies march now to the cause he advocated. The ideas he taught are true-forming the rising life of the nation and the most ancient nation in the world. The militarists and imperialists who defeated him and hounded him in life are crumbling and falling before his victorious cause.

Never was there greater proof of the fundamental power of idealism. Sun Yat Sen's social idealism has become mightier than all the guns and deadly explosives of the militarists and imperialists.

A few days ago the Chicago Daily News contained an article by a newspaper correspondent in China, which contained the militarist armies of China were crumbling before the revolutionary armies because the former lacked idealism, while the latter were imbued with a marked degree. Three thousand Cantonese revolutionaries, he said, captured a large city from a militarist army several times as large because of the superior morale of the followers of Sun Yat Sen.

One cannot think of Sun Yat Sen without thinking of our own "Gene Debs."

Sun Yat Sen's soul and Socialist ideals were matched against the most ancient societies in the world. He died for the idealism of the rising life of the nation, that only two or three years after the death of Sun Yat Sen these ideals have attained a position of comparative power.

### The Gang System

A remarkable and significant industrial development, inaugurated by the Hudson Motor Car Co., is described in the issue of the American Appeal by Edward L. Tamm. It is a new system of industrial organization, in which the workers are organized into gangs, each gang being responsible for its own production and its own maintenance. The system is based on the principle of collective responsibility and collective ownership. The workers are organized into gangs, each gang being responsible for its own production and its own maintenance. The system is based on the principle of collective responsibility and collective ownership.

### Group Psychology

If the gang system becomes general we will soon have Socialism. Gangs or groups of men upon which the entire burden of production, management, discipline and work have been placed, will inevitably long in time their own entire self-sufficiency. Men thus working together in groups for a common output will inevitably get the group viewpoint, the group method, the group spirit, which are all class-conscious in their nature, that they are expressions of a knowledge and feeling of group self-sufficiency. In time they will be able to stand with the present system, and they will be able to stand with the present system, and they will be able to stand with the present system.

### Beginning of the End

The whole process of capitalism is to entirely separate ownership from effort. To make ownership a self-sufficient thing for the extraction of maximum profits WITHOUT EFFORT, CARE OR TROUBLE ON THE PART OF THE PRIVATE OWNER. To this end it has built the present industrial system and the present capitalist state and great body of laws of property rights. With this enormous industrial and political machinery it has been getting steadily nearer and nearer to this goal. BUT IN ORDER TO GET NEARER THE PERFECT STATE OF PRIVATE OWNERSHIP, THE PRIVATE OWNERS HAVE HAD TO SHOVE OFF ON THE WORKERS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. THE EFFORT OF SUPERINTENDENCE, MANAGEMENT AND THE MOST ADVANCED ASKING THE EFFORT OF MAKING THE INVESTMENT ITSELF.

First we had individual ownership of tools when the owner did all the work himself and got the product. But the tool evolved into the machine, which took the most men to operate it, and right there ownership and effort parted company giving birth to workless machine owners and ownerless machine workers. But the first machine owners performed the work of management and superintendence, and the first machine workers performed the work of management and superintendence. Where there were no machines, there was no management and superintendence. Where there were machines, there was management and superintendence. Where there were machines, there was management and superintendence. Where there were machines, there was management and superintendence.

### Group Psychology

Perhaps Ford's five hour day is merely a device for curtailing production in these days of slowing down of industry.

Should the workers grasp the meaning of Socialism the grasp of the masters on the wealth of the world would relax.

The workers make others rich and die poor. But for that matter, so does the beneficence of this insane system die poor.

They who are determined to stand with the present system, and they who are determined to stand with the present system, and they who are determined to stand with the present system.

## The Appeal Question Box

### Land And Railroad Ownership

Vaughn Buchanan Brokaw, of Phoenix, Arizona, replies to a question about a long list of questions and arguments. Because of the space limitations, he has decided to try to answer them all in one issue, which is impossible. We will treat some of them in this issue.

### Miss Brokaw

In your comments in your issue of October 9th and 16th on a letter of mine, you fail to distinguish between natural resources (which necessarily exist without human effort) and the human work stored in what exists between them. For instance, land exists without human effort, but railroads are a result of human effort applied to natural resources. Would it not be a clearer understanding of the subject if you put them in separate classifications?

### Answer

As far as the question of unrestricted access of the people to their sources of existence is concerned, there is no reason why land and railroads should be put in separate classifications. The people as a whole are entitled to land as a primary source of existence and they are also entitled to the railroads as a primary source of transportation. The question of land and railroads is a question of the right of the people to their sources of existence and transportation. The question of land and railroads is a question of the right of the people to their sources of existence and transportation.

### Syndicalism Law

The criminal syndicalism law of California was challenged in the United States Supreme Court for the second time this year on November 21, when R. W. Henderson, attorney of Bakersfield, Cal., argued the appeal of William Brannan, an I. W. W. The first Supreme Court challenge of the constitutionality of the criminal syndicalism law was heard last March when the conviction of Charlotte Anita Whitney, California civil and suffrage leader, was appealed by Walter Pollak of New York. Burns was arrested while working in a lumber camp in Yosemite National Park on April 10, 1923, when an I. W. W. membership card was found in his left wallet. He was sentenced under the criminal syndicalism law to 10 months in prison by Federal Judge Partridge of San Francisco in November 1923. He spent five months in Leavenworth penitentiary before being released under \$2,500 bail pending appeal to the Supreme Court.

### Police Brutally Beat Up Strikers

Mayor James J. Walker of New York City was urged on December 1st to investigate police brutality practices on striking paper box makers, when a delegation from the American Civil Liberties Union submitted to him affidavits signed by strikers. The delegation consisted of Henry T. Hunt, former mayor of Cincinnati, the Rev. J. Howard Melish of Trinity Church, Brooklyn, and Rose Schneiderman of the Women's Trade Union League.

The delegates declared that they were not concerned with the issue of the strike. They protested against the "aggressive campaign of violence now being conducted by the police." The affidavits of the striking box makers state that they have been beaten with clubs and fists and that children have been chased from the street by a policeman brandishing a revolver. One striker charges that three front teeth were knocked out by a blow from a policeman. A girl swears that she was badly bruised when a policeman struck her with a chair. Two men alleged that they were arrested and fined on trumped-up charges. Other girls testify that they were clubbed or threatened with bodily injury for walking in the strike area or for harmless acts against which the police arbitrarily objected.

## Sweet Land of Liberty

### Passaic Bombing Frameup Exposed

Despite the announcement of Boston newspapers that Mayor Nichols has lifted the ban on speeches by Anthony Binha, Lithuanian editor and lecturer tried for blasphemy in Brockton, Mass., an American Civil Liberties Union correspondent reports that Binha owners still refuse to rent hall for a Binha meeting for fear of having their licenses revoked or having the meeting broken up by police. John S. Cushman of Boston has requested the mayor officially to assure Binha owners that the police will not interfere with Binha meetings. The mayor declared that he would permit a recent free speech test arranged for Binha in Faneuil Hall under the auspices of the American Civil Liberties Union and the International Labor Defense, but added that he would ask federal agents to attend any meeting at which Binha spoke and would revoke licenses if any laws were broken. Hall owners were threatened with cancellation of licenses last February when Mayor Nichols denied Binha the right to speak on the eve of his trial.

### Syndicalism Law In Supreme Court

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# How The World War Undermined American Liberty

By Forrest R. Black

## War Propaganda

The paralysis of constitutional government in war-time is often facilitated by propaganda organizations which are created generally for selfish purposes and which attain their objectives through the capitalization of popular prejudice. This is an age of propaganda. Organized minorities, highly subsidized, take advantage of our admirably developed systems of communication, and exercise an influence out of all proportion to their importance.

**National Security League**  
One of the most powerful propaganda organizations that was instrumental in bringing America into the World War was the National Security League. After a thorough investigation, a Special Committee of the House of Representatives presented to the public on March 3, 1917, a very unsavory report of this organization. The Committee was unanimous in the belief that the National Security League had violated the Corrupt Practices Act. William Root and Alton B. Parker had been officers, so as to conceal the real purposes and give the appearance of a non-partisan protective association interested only in the preservation of American security and independence. Its real purpose was to fight the death of every candidate who had the temerity to be opposed to the interests. The Report has something to say on this point: "If the curtains were only pulled back, the hand of Rockefeller, of Vanderbilt, of Morgan, of Remondino, of Du Pont and of Guggenheim would be seen, suggesting steel, oil, money bags, Russian bonds, rifles, power and railroads."

## Creel and His Committee

War having been declared, the next step is for the government itself to set up a propaganda organization. In order to be certain that there shall be a conscription of minds, ("The Committee on Public Information") is created. As an anonymous English writer has pointed out, Creel and his associates were master pragmatists. They were firm believers in the dogma that "truth is what works," that is to say, truth is what helps win the war. They produce out of the same raw material the separate truths which war requires for the home consumer, the Ally, the neutral and the enemy. It becomes merely a question of preparing and applying the requisite alloy.

We are prone to believe what we wish we were true. In times of excitement, this tendency of the mind is conspicuously active. Scarcely anything is too great a strain upon the credulity of the community. It has been truly said that "war hath no fury like the non-combatant." The emotional irrational contagion of the crowd in war-time is a terrible thing to contemplate. Many citizens, who at other times are dignified, gentlemanly and substantial members of the community, completely lose their individuality and for the time being become "herd men" inflamed by an all-consuming hatred, they are eager to accept every myth and exaggerate every atrocity. Under these conditions, the press, although pretending to express public opinion, in reality creates and controls it.

## The War-Crazed Press

If anyone believes this to be an exaggerated picture of the war psychology that was rampant in Amer-

ica during and for several years after our participation in the World War, he can quickly be convinced and shocked by a reference to the result of those days. No one can realize how near we approximated the Russia of the Czars, unless he read the mass of authenticated evidence now in the files of the American Civil Liberties Union in New York. Mob violence was rampant. Many communities, vigilance committees, and "night riders" had almost supplanted the judiciary. Defenceless men and women were visited by gangs of "law and order" patriots; they were beaten and abused because it was believed that they had bought a sufficient amount of Liberty bonds. The "right of castle" was destroyed. Official intermeddlers sallied forth with blanket warrants or without warrants, bent on "fishing expeditions" for evidence of sedition.

**War Psychosis**  
One very widespread effect of the war psychosis was the formation of divers self-appointed associations that busied themselves with the self-imposed duty of acting as civilian auxiliaries to the Department of Justice. It was the fond hope of these patriotic organizations that they would be able to make all people think alike in war-time. This great desideratum was to be achieved through the creation of an intricate and all-pervading system of super-censorship. In the consummation of this high purpose, the organization of the "Knights of Liberty" was chosen. This great desideratum was to be achieved through the creation of an intricate and all-pervading system of super-censorship. In the consummation of this high purpose, the organization of the "Knights of Liberty" was chosen. This great desideratum was to be achieved through the creation of an intricate and all-pervading system of super-censorship. In the consummation of this high purpose, the organization of the "Knights of Liberty" was chosen.

and the lives of her sons upon the altar of freedom? After all, was it not reasonable to suppose that these so-called "understanders" of constitutional rights were defeatists and such abuse sympathizers? Why should anyone defend the constitutional right of free speech to any political heretic unless he himself was heretical and shared the same opinion?

## American Defense Society

One of the outstanding exponents of this philosophy was the American Defense Society. This unofficial organization took elaborate steps to set up vigilance committees in every city and hamlet. It undertook the ambitious program of card-cataloging the names of every citizen who was classified by this omniscient society as either loyal, disloyal, doubtful or unknown. It petitioned Mayor Hylan to stop the teaching of German in the public schools of New York City. It succeeded in stopping German opera in the city of New York. It circulated its petitions among the employees of the public service commission in New York with an implied threat back of the request to sign it.

The press of the war and post-war period abounds with stories of the patriotic organizations of the time. In the far west we hear of the "Knights of Liberty" choosing the shibboleth for better or for worse. "If the courts and legal machinery cannot suppress dangerous pro-German propaganda, then we will make plans to do it ourselves." Then from the same part of the country, there is the "Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen," authorized by the Secretary of War to fight the I.W.W. In Milwaukee there is formed the "Loyalty Legion." In Breckinridge, an organization of boys known as "The Anti-Yellow Dog League" served as an unofficial auxiliary of the Department of Justice. In Cleveland "The Yellow

Dog Clubbers Club" is launched. Its cardinal commandment is "Thou shalt not wag thy own tongue in abuse of the government, neither shalt thou sit idly by and hear to such abuse." Other patriotic organizations playing a role in this saturnalia of censorship bear such high-sounding titles as "The Terrible Threateners"; "The Sedition Slammers"; "The American Anti-Anarchy Association"; "The Home Guards"; "The American Rights League"; "The Travelling Salesmen Liberty League"; "The All-American League"; "The Anti-Sedition League"; "The Minute Men of America"; "The United Americans"; "The Better America Federation"; and "The Constitutional Defense League."

## American Protective League

Perhaps the most sinister and the most powerful organization of law breakers in modern times was the American Protective League. This secret, unofficial organization of patrioters had its birth in America during the World War. Emerson Lough portrays how this mysterious power composed of more than a quarter of a million men entered homes and apartments without warrants, broke up peaceful assemblies of Socialists, committed burglaries and other high crimes and misdemeanors. These admissions are not only made openly, but they are made proudly. Mr. Lough makes plans to do it ourselves. Then from the same part of the country, there is the "Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen," authorized by the Secretary of War to fight the I.W.W. In Milwaukee there is formed the "Loyalty Legion." In Breckinridge, an organization of boys known as "The Anti-Yellow Dog League" served as an unofficial auxiliary of the Department of Justice. In Cleveland "The Yellow

as to letters done by suspects. Sometimes it clairvoyantly found the proofs it sought. A man's private correspondence is supposed to be safe in his office files or vault. You suppose yours was never seen? Was it? Perhaps. It certainly was if you were known as a loyal citizen—a true blooded American. But the League examined all the personal and business correspondence of thousands of men who never were the wiser. How could that be done... The operator takes from his pocket a curious little box-like instrument which he sets upon the table. He has a perfectly effective camera... Everything is replaced exactly where it was found. The desk is opened, the vault is opened—it has been done a thousand times in every city of America. You think this imaginary, far-fetched, impossible. It is neither of the three. It is the truth.

## Black Page of History

He continues, "It is supposed that breaking and entering a man's home or office place without warrant is burglary. Granted. But the League has done that thousands of times and has never been detected. It is entirely possible that the League did not harm or unsettle any innocent man. It was after the guilty alone, and it was no time to mince matters or to pass fine phrases when the land was full of dangerous enemies in disguise. The League broke some little laws and precedents? Perhaps. But it upheld the great law under the great need of an unprecedented hour."

We submit that in the whole literature of the struggle between tyranny and civil liberty, there can be found no blacker page than this. Here is a "law and order" league which is infallible in its judgment. It knows in advance who is innocent and who is guilty. It frankly admits that it is above the law. It does not care to

be bothered by the observance of constitutional provisions. Mr. Hough wants the world to know that "the serving of a search warrant without a warrant" is the whole case. The organization glorifies its own inhuman deeds and justifies the stepping down of the liberties of the citizen, because it knows that the great A.P.L.'s who have taken the oath have in heart. And the group of hostilities is three thousand men away!

Mr. Hough boasts that "the League has done that thousands of times and has never been detected." Why? The answer to this question is to be found on the official stationery of the League. The letterhead reads: "Organized with the approval and sanction of the Department of Justice, Bureau of Investigation." If this is not sufficient to link this unofficial organization of snipers to the federal authorities, then consider the testimony of Mr. Hinchey G. Clabough, the Chief Agent of the U. S. Department of Justice. He says, "Without exaggeration, I think the Chicago Division of the American Protective League did seventy-five percent of the good investigation work of the Chicago district throughout the war. It seems to me that this one section covers the situation."

And yet the Attorney General of the United States in his report for 1916, had the temerity to assure the American people that "This department throughout the war has been engaged in the general supervision of the constitutional right of free speech, the assembly and petition except in war time as in peace time and that the right of discussion of governmental policy and the right of political agitation are most fundamental rights in a democracy."

## Hearst Writer Tries to Show Why Socialism Is Impossible

The mental quality of the high-salaried concocters of opinion in the capitalist press has again been revealed. George W. Hinnman who mixes "dog" for popular consumption in the Hearst papers, was asked by three university students to define Socialism and Communism. To say the least his "definitions" are unique.

According to Hinnman, all the possibilities of realizing Socialism are exhausted by the fact that the industries the Socialists profess to have the public acquire would cost too much—they would fasten an impossible burden of debt on the people. They would increase the public indebtedness in Great Britain eighteen billion dollars, or to fifty-five billion, he says, and in the United States to more than one hundred billion dollars.

"This is almost half the wealth of the United Kingdom," he exclaims. "It is impossible."

Now note the peculiar kinks in this Socialistic mind. Hinnman seems utterly blind to the fact that the debt would purchase PROTECTIVE PROPERTY WHICH THE PEOPLE WOULD OWN. That they would have as much, be as wealthy, after the purchase as before. They would merely assume eighteen billion dollars worth of debt for eighteen billion dollars worth of productive property. The property would be good for the debts. IN ADDITION THIS PROPERTY WOULD HAVE A TREMENDOUS WEALTH PRODUCING POWER; IT WOULD BE MORE THAN GOOD FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE DEBT. AFTER THE PROPERTY HAD PRODUCED A SURPLUS SUFFICIENT TO PAY FOR ITSELF, THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE THE PROPERTY FREE FROM DEBT TO PRODUCE TO THE END OF TIME FOR THEMSELVES WITHOUT DEDUCTIONS OF ANY KIND.

The British people are NOW paying to the private owners of the eighteen billion dollars worth of property in interest and dividends MORE THAN THEY WOULD PAY IF THEY CHANGED THESE PROPERTIES INTO EIGHTEEN BILLION DOLLARS IN DEBTS AND TOOK THEM OVER. If they made this exchange, they would be acquiring unencumbered ownership to this property while they were making these same payments.

Hinnman says that the interest on the one hundred billion the American people would have to pay for the basic properties would amount to five billion dollars yearly. THIS HAPPENS TO BE ALMOST IDENTICALLY THE SUM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOW PAYING IN INTEREST ON THE DEBTS THEY HAVE THESE PROPERTIES. ACCORDING TO FIGURES OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. If we would take over these properties by going in debt a hundred billion, WE WOULD BE EARNING A FREE TITLE TO THEM WHILE WE WERE PAYING THIS FIVE BILLION ANNUALLY. Now we pay it and the big fellows keep the properties and continue to exploit us. In addition, we could make these same properties produce twice as much as they are producing now by uniting them in a big system and eliminating waste, and raising the purchasing power of the people by doubling wages, thus producing a home market twice as big as the present one.

Thus Hinnman confounds himself in his own attempt to show the impossibility of realizing Socialism. EVEN HINNMAN'S PLAN WOULD WORK, IF WE COULD FIND NO BETTER WAY TO BRING SOCIALISM.

Hinnman overlooks a very important factor in the realization of Socialism—the credit power, the TAXING POWER and various other kinds of power a Socialist or workers' government would have in the transformation from private to public ownership. Note these points:

1.—The labor government would tax the capitalists out of their property gradually without violating any principle of justice or any law. Pri-

vate ownership of public utilities is a privilege, which if paid for under a just system of taxation WOULD SOLICIT ALL PUBLIC UTILITIES WITHOUT ANY INCREASE IN PUBLIC EXPENSES.

2.—A great deal of capital property has been acquired by dishonesty, fraud or extortion—for instance, public lands acquired by American railroads. When such cases are properly and fairly adjusted, the people will find themselves public possessors of much property without cost to them.

3.—EVERY MONOPOLY IN AMERICA IS ILLEGAL AND HAS ALREADY MERITED CONFISCATION. WE HAVE ALL THE MONOPOLIES IN THIS COUNTRY. WE WOULD HAVE A VERY GOOD FOUNDATION FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH.

4.—A workers' political regime can be established in this or any other country without the aid of illegal capitalist opposition to it. SUCH RESISTANCE TO LAW AND GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS MADE PROPERTIES OF SUCH REBELS AND LAW-BREAKERS ILLEGAL TO CONVEY TO THEM. A workers' regime would inevitably cause a devaluation of values in capitalist property. EVEN IF WE HAD TO BUY ALL CAPITALIST PROPERTY WE WOULD BUY DE-

preciated property. PROPERTY THAT WAS YIELDING BEFORE A RISING TIDE OF PUBLIC OWNERSHIP SENTIMENT AND A RAPID ENFORCEMENT OF SOCIALIZED PROPERTY. We mention these things to bring out the economic significance of political change from a capitalist to a Socialist government. Capitalist property was built up by capitalist government. The workers' government will build an collective property just as easily, just as naturally, just as inevitably.

Why did Hinnman leave out such a larger, such an obvious part of the picture of the coming of Socialism? He can't pay to advertise his own and naturally Socialism will come when the workers gain political power. In lieu of thought, dollars rattle in his head.

In view of the above, we can't resist the temptation to reproduce the following paragraph of Hinnman's article. He says: "The foregoing statement is a practical answer to the three university students. When matter-of-fact examples are so plentiful, a more scientific answer would be a waste of time."

If that is Hinnman's idea of a practical answer, oh, how we would like to see his scientific answer.

## How Capitalism Makes A Machine of Worker

By Leland Olds

Men, materials and machines scientifically handled are pouring millions of dollars in profits into the coffers of the Hudson Motor Car Co. How this is accomplished is described in 6 articles prepared for The Wall Street Journal by Leland Olds.

The gang system, by which groups of men are paid a lump sum for a given output in place of the old individual piecework system, is the crowning achievement of the motor industry. It is described as breaking down the resistance of the men to changes that mean lower costs, and as securing their cooperation in establishing labor-saving methods. Says the Journal:

"Summed up, the gang system accomplishes the following: 1. Supervision is automatically accomplished by the men themselves. 2. Inventory of materials in process is automatically controlled and production of

parts is harmoniously balanced with car output schedules. 3. Economical administration is attained. 4. Wages can be adjusted without changing car costs. 5. Company obtains average labor costs while providing efficient workers with higher than average wages."

Under this system the pay of all the workers may be adversely affected if one man or one group fails to hinder the production schedule. Hence the men are induced to sweat each other. The man who fails to keep the pace is forced out by his fellows. Similarly, if a gang feels that it could turn out the work with fewer men and so increase its average pay it "quickly insists that the surplus man-power be laid off."

The slave-driver type of foreman, says the Journal, is no longer needed. The Hudson concern says: "The system 'works to the satisfaction of the men and cuts down costs, at the same time securing high-grade workmanship.'"

## No Real Christian Can Uphold Present System

By W. L. Baldridge

(Arkansas City, Kans.)

The person who stands for the teachings of Christ is necessarily out of harmony with our present economic system. Who will deny that in the economic sphere the Almighty Dollar is supreme, and therefore that the controllers of finance are the absolute rulers of our day. A king is no real ruler unless he be one of a financial group having control. Mussolini, as the nominal ruler of Italy, has no control whatever over the financial powers. He can only exert power in the nation of which he has assumed rulership, so long as he advances measures contrary to the interests of the international bankers. He may dictate in any and all matters so long as he does not step outside the bounds prescribed by the bankers. As he is not the ruler of the ruling group, he is tolerated only so long as the ruling group can use him. So far he recognizes the rulers very admirably.

Are our rulers trying to establish economic justice in the world? In the face of facts the question seems absurd. They are merely trying to re-

tain our present system in order to maintain their rulership. Nothing more or less could be expected. The "system" knows no God but the dollar. Just contemplate for a moment the welfare of the peoples of the earth tied up in the hands of such rulers. But as rulers they are only part of a system, and as such they are "vicious" as the system—that and nothing more. Looking from this standpoint it seems a far cry to the establishment of economic justice.

In the system Christ stood for, as represented by his apostles, we witness a brotherhood not only in the religious, but also in the economic sphere. In this brotherhood individual selfish interests were outlawed and the interests of the group as a whole became paramount. To this end they had all things in common. This is fully accord with the teachings and spirit of Christ.

Where does this leave our modern Christians? Why, they even help promote and participate in war, murder, in the name of the Christ whose fundamental teachings they evidently have never learned. As a result what do we see? We see mem-

bers of so-called Christian organizations praying to God for victory, thus a "Christian" force of one nation pitted against a "Christian" force of another nation. If we follow down this line we see the Salvation Army of Germany, for instance, assisting the Germans to win the victory and at the same time the Salvation Army in America assisting the United States to like victory over a division of a merry organization pitted against another division of the same merry organization, in deadly combat. In like manner the Red Cross of one nation is pitted against the Red Cross of another nation, thus assisting in the ungodly business of mass murder.

Under such rulership is it any wonder that a chaotic condition confronts the world? Is it any wonder that crime, deception, hypocrisy, corruption, degradation, poverty, misery, and suffering exist on all hands? What is the duty of the Christian? He can't pay to advertise his own and naturally Socialism will come when the workers gain political power. In lieu of thought, dollars rattle in his head.

In view of the above, we can't resist the temptation to reproduce the following paragraph of Hinnman's article. He says: "The foregoing statement is a practical answer to the three university students. When matter-of-fact examples are so plentiful, a more scientific answer would be a waste of time."

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## Joseph Sharts Takes Senator to Task for Defending Gen. Fries

Efforts of the Socialists of Dayton, Ohio, to obtain a congressional investigation of Gen. Fries to determine his motives for the resolution which he presented to the House of Representatives because of his efforts to have a high school teacher dismissed for writing a definition of Socialism for a magazine, have attracted the attention of lawmakers in Washington to the case.

Following the passage of the resolution by the Socialists of Dayton demanding such an investigation, which was published in the American Appeal, copies were sent to Ohio congressmen and senators and a Socialist Congressman Victor I. Berger, Senator Willis immediately replied opposing an investigation, to which Joseph W. Sharts of Dayton has made a scathing reply.

It is urged that the motives of this resolution that such an investigation will be of tremendous value for its educational effects and as a lesson to future official candidates for the national dunce's cap and stool. Socialist organizations and progressive labor bodies are urged to send in similar resolutions.

Senator Willis' letter and the reply of Joseph W. Sharts, member of the Socialist National Executive Committee, follows:

## Senator Willis' Letter

Dear Mr. Sharts:  
I have your letter with attached copy of resolutions adopted by Dayton, Ohio, Socialists, regarding General Amos A. Fries and Dr. Henry Flury, between whom some dispute seems to have arisen as to the definition of socialism.

May I be permitted to suggest with the greatest respect that it seems to me that this is an entirely individual matter. From what is stated in the resolution, which is the only information I have on the subject, I assume that General Fries made his objection simply as a private citizen residing in Washington. He is as much entitled to his view about socialism as Dr. Flury is entitled to his view. I do not believe that the statement of facts you make would warrant a Congressional investigation of General Fries. In fact, it seems to me that the Government is seeking to use his position as a Commanding

Officer to control someone else, that would be an entirely different condition, but that statement of facts is presented by the resolution which you send me. I do not believe that the entertaining of an opinion on any political theory would be proper grounds for court martial of an officer of the United States.

Moreover, General Fries, as an opinion expressed as a private citizen, will thank you for sending me copy of your resolution.

Very truly yours,  
—Frank B. Willis.

## Sharts' Reply

My Dear Senator:

I heartily agree with your statement in your favor of November 23, that General Fries was entitled to his opinion as a private citizen on any political question. General Fries himself, however, does not agree with us. He tried to take away a high school teacher's job because of his political views. He is a private citizen in a matter entirely detached from his position. Why should General Fries have the cloak of immunity flung by you around him, while he strips it from others?

Moreover, General Fries, as an army officer, is scarcely entitled to this cloak. It is at least an unwritten law of the service that army officers shall abstain from participation in partisan politics. All of our great soldiers, notably Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan, adhered strictly to this rule. There are obvious reasons for its enforcement if we are to be a free people.

Our civil service employees are by statute forbidden to support any political party with money, and the practical effect of that law has been to make them abstain from active partisanship of any kind. Why should a military officer on the public payroll, like General Fries, be free to do what is in fact denied to those on the civil list? I understand he acted in the matter as commander of the American Legion to which he must be paying dues, and to that extent the American Legion is a political organization.

Moreover, outside of his military position, General Fries and his attack on Dr. Flury would be too insignificant to warrant attention. He attempted to use the weight and influence of his official standing to accomplish his purpose.

As an official of the government

he holds a position of peculiar significance, head of the chemical warfare service of the army. It behooves the working class to consider what sort of man he is, and his qualifications for that position. Chemical warfare is a form of service particularly apt to be used in labor troubles. Already there are instances of the use of tear gas. Chemical bombs were used during the West Virginia coal strike. A coal strike will arrive in Ohio next spring, when the mine operators will refuse to renew a wage scale agreement with the United Mine Workers, as they have announced. Intervention by federal troops has been a standard process of strike-breaking ever since Grover Cleveland sent them to break the Pullman strike in 1894. With General Fries and his chemicals. Now General Fries is so rabid against the working class that he needs no existence of industrial injustice, he is obviously an unfit person to be in charge of the chemical warfare department of the government.

The working people of the country, and especially the labor unionists, could expect nothing from Fries but the most savage use of his power upon the slightest pretext. It is necessary to keep an avowed enemy of organized labor in such a peculiarly advantageous position for wreaking his spite against them? Are there not enough competent men with some breadth?

I myself, an old soldier, I can quote the Articles of War with some practical knowledge. I have seen them applied to almost any conduct. Article 96 is a blanket clause which provides that "all conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the military service" may be punished.

I cannot think of any conduct more calculated to bring discredit upon the military service than for an officer of high rank to burst out in a public attack upon a teacher for sending a definition of socialism to a magazine which merely implied that every standard political economist and sociologist of the past quarter century has accepted as a truism, viz., that industrial servitude does exist to a considerable extent under our present wage system.

My labor is not diminished, and that those who create the wealth are seldom the ones who receive the enjoyment of the wealth they create. When a man denies as furiously as General Fries that these conditions exist, he brands a man as a Communist and an enemy of our government.

With best regards, I am,  
Yours truly,  
—Joseph W. Sharts.

Whatever claim our civilization has to the name "Christian" lies in its growing emphasis upon social duty. To increase this emphasis, to give it meaning, to supply sufficient vision and motive to carry the forward towards the ideal of the Kingdom of Christ in industry, in international and all human relationships, it is essential that men should be able to understand the meaning of the Gospel of Christ, and of the meaning of the Gospel to men of our day.

Let it be the glory of the Bishop's Crusade that it achieves the synthesis between mysticism and service, between personal and social salvation, that, in the language of one of the great spirits of our Church, it affords personal piety with the social passion.

The statement is signed by Bishops Charles H. Brent, Charles R. Landon, Charles D. Broughton, Cameron H. Davis, Charles K. Gilbert, Robert L. Taylor, Lewis C. Allen, Irving J. Roullier, Samuel Taylor.

We urge upon the leaders of the Bishop's Crusade the inclusion in their program of that social emphasis which has such high warrant in the work of the prophets of all times. It should not longer be necessary to stress the truth so well stated: "The individual character must be an agent let us recognize that individuality can be fulfilled only in social relationships. Salvation must be sought, as we recognize no salvation as true which does not include the achievement of a deep, abiding sense of brotherhood."

ment for suggesting their existence, he is either too dumb or too crafty to be entrusted with a public position involving care for human lives.

Please bear in mind too that General Fries by his public activities in this matter was insulting many foreign governmental officials, for practically every civilized country outside of the United States has a participation in government. There are hundreds of European princes, cabinet officers, and parliamentarians belonging to the Socialist Party, and General Fries' outburst is a slap in the face of every one of them. I remember that during the Spanish War an officer in the United States Navy read a humorous poem about the Kaiser, and this was sufficient to bring him a severe reprimand and danger of dismissal. Are the hundreds of Socialists public officials of less consideration in the eyes of our government than the late Kaiser?

With best regards, I am,  
Yours truly,  
—Joseph W. Sharts.